

made thereto is also attached. All of the pending claims in the application are listed for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Amended) An aqueous ink for ink-jet recording, comprising a colored resin particle dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the colored resin particle comprises a film-forming resin to which a dye is sublimed and penetrated, and wherein the film-forming resin is an acrylic resin.

2. (Not Amended Herein) The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the film-forming resin has a minimum film-forming temperature (MFT) of not higher than 35°C.

3. (Not Amended Herein) The aqueous ink according to claim 2, wherein said minimum film-forming temperature is not higher than 25°C.

4. (Not Amended Herein) The aqueous ink according to claim 3, wherein said minimum film-forming temperature is not higher than 10°C.

5. (Not Amended Herein) The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a slightly water-soluble dye

or a pigment, and is contained in the film-forming resin in a monomolecular state by aid of a solubilizer.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Amended) An ink-jet recording method comprising a step of ejecting the aqueous ink according to claim 1 through an orifice in correspondence with a recording signal to deposit the ejected ink onto a recording medium.

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8. (Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising an ink container containing the aqueous ink according to claim 1, and a head for ejecting the ink through an orifice in correspondence with a recording signal.

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9. (Amended) An ink cartridge comprising an ink container for containing the aqueous ink according to any of claims 1 to 5.

10. (Amended) A recording unit comprising an ink container for containing the aqueous ink according to claim 1, and a head for ejecting the ink through an orifice in correspondence with a recording signal.

11. (Amended) A coloring material comprising colored resin particles which comprise a film-forming resin to which a dye is sublimed and penetrated, and wherein the film-forming resin is an acrylic resin.

12. (Not Amended Herein) The coloring material according to claim 11, wherein the film-forming resin has a minimum film-forming temperature (MFT) of not higher than 35°C.

13. (Not Amended Herein) The coloring material according to claim 12, wherein said minimum film-forming temperature is not higher than 25°C.

14. (Not Amended Herein) The coloring material according to claim 13, wherein said minimum film-forming temperature is not higher than 10°C.

15. (Not Amended Herein) The coloring material according to claim 11, which is used in an ink for ink-jet recording.